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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Third meeting of the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts of African Least Developed Countries

Conakry, 11-13 April 1984

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries

Conakry, 24-25 April 1984

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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I. Opening of the meeting

1. The third meeting of the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts and fourth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of African Least Developed Countries (hereafter referred to as "the Conference") will be declared open on Wednesday 11 April 1984 and on Tuesday 24 April 1984, respectively.

2. The provisional agenda of the two meetings is proposed as follows:

(a) Opening of the meeting

(b) Statement by the Executive Secretary

(c) Election of officers

(d) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(e) Review of economic and social conditions in African least developed countries (198 -1983)

(f) Progress report on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action in African LDCs (1982-1983)

(g) Pricing policies in African least developed countries: issues for consideration

(h) Review of ECA activities in 1983 and programme of work in 1984 in favour of the African least developed countries

(i) Consideration and adoption of the reports.

Agenda items (V) to (VIII) will be examined by the Conference along with the report of the intergouvernmental Committee of Experts.

II.4 Statement by the Executive Secretary

3. Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, Executive Secretary of the ECA, will deliver opening statements at the meeting of the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts and the Conference. of Ministers of African LDCs.

III. Election of officers

4. In the context of rules 14 and 15 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the meetings will elect a chairman, two vice-chairman and a rapporteur.

IV. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts and the Conference of Ministers of African LDCs will adopt the agenda and establish the procedure for the conduct of the meetings. As indicated above, the main task of the Conference of Ministers will be to consider and approve the report, recommendations and draft resolutions of the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts.

V. Review of economic and social conditions in African LDCs, 1981-1983

6. The meeting will have before them document E/ECA/LDCs.4/2: Review of Economic and ocial Conditions in African LDCs, 1981-1983. The document deals with inter-alia an assessment, since the adoption of the SNPA, of overall trends in key macro-economic aggregates and sectoral developments in priority areas especially in agriculture and manufacturing in the African LDCs as a group; an aggregate analysis of selected range of domestic policies pursued by the governments and the impact of external factors on the economies and a brief survey of the individual countries highlighting their growth performance and macro-economic management in the context of implementing the SNPA at the country level. Aid modalities and trends in individual African LDCs will also be assessed.

VI. Progress report on the implementation of the SNPA in African LDCs, 1982-1983

7. Under this agenda item, the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts and the Conference of Ministers of African LDCs will consider document E/ECA/LDCs.4/3: Progress report on the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) in African Least developed Countries (1982-1983). The main issues to be treated by the paper will include: an assessment of the results of the roundtable meetings so far organized and a review of the status of preparations of the remaining roundtable meetings; an evaluation of the outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD VI), with respect to the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) in African LDCs; an analysis of the domestic measures taken and policies pursued by the African LDCs in the context of chapter 1 of the SNPA; and an analysis of the efficiency of international support mechanisms and measures taken since 1981.

VII. Pricing policies in African Least developed countries

8. The meetings will consider document E/ECA/LDCs.4/4 entitled: "Pricing E/ECA/LDCs.4/4 entitled: "Pricing policies in African least developed countries: issues for consideration". The paper is partly based on major findings of a Joint ECA/UNCTAD project study which has been carried out in a sample of African least developed countries. It deals with, inter-alia, pricing policies in the context of overall economic policy; the effects of pricing policies on sectoral development and growth performance with particular emphasis on the stabilization objectives, farmers income and producer prices in the agricultural sector; an analysis of the institutional and legal framework and its effectiveness in the establishment of prices; an evaluation of the administrative and economic price contr

systems and mechanisms; price formation techniques and structures with a look at the general macro-economic determinants of the price level, relative prices and inflation and the existing techniques of establishing prices for agricultural exports, imported and locally produced foodstuff, imported and locally manufactured goods. The paper concludes with an appraisal of the effectiveness of, and constraints to the implementation of pricing policies in African LDCs and provides recommendations on the formation of effective pricing policies in the context of overall economic management.

VIII. Review of ECA activities in 1983 and programme of work in 1984 in favour of the African LDCs

9. The secretariat will present document E/ECA/LDCs.4/5 on the above agenda item which highlights the activities of the ECA in 1983 and the programme of work in 1984 in favour of the African least developed countries. During 1983, a number of African LDCs benefited from the ECA technical assistance programme and advisory services in planning and programming, and other sectoral activities in the fields of population, statistics, industry, transport and communications, etc, either on a country level (i.e. upon the request of the government concerned) or through the impact of sub-regional and regional projects. In its programme of work for 1984 the ECA will intensify its technical assistance component and African LDCs are urged to indicate clearly the type and scale of assistance that could be provided by the secretariat.

IX. Consideration and adoption of the reports

10. The third meeting of the Inter-Governmental Committee of Experts will consider and adopt its report, recommendations and resolutions which will be submitted to the fourth meeting of the Conference for consideration and approval. The final Report of the Conference of Ministers of African LDCs will in turn be forwarded to the tenth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers (nineteenth session of the Commission) for endorsement.